

Marine Transportation Advisory Board

Teleconference Meeting

July 12, 2011

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Korsmo called the teleconference meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Marine Transportation Advisory Board members participating: In the room (Juneau): Ron Bressette and Robert Venables. *Over the teleconference line:* Mark Eliason, Maxine Thompson, Clay Koplin, Gerry Hope, Josh Howes, Dan Kelly and Mike Korsmo. A quorum was established. *Absent /Not Available Members:* Cathie Roemmich and Shirley Marquardt.

ROLL CALL VIA TELECONFERENCE:

DOT&PF/AMHS staff and other participants: Deputy Commissioner Mike Neussl, Captain John Falvey (DOT), Murry Couzin (DOT), Doug Ward (Alaska Ship & Dry Dock), Scott Bowlen (KDN), Krista Hagan (DOT), Bob Doll (DOWL HKM Contractor for SW Transportation Plan), Wes Hanna (Kodiak Daily Mirror), Jesse Kiehl (Senator Egan's Office), Hannah McCartney (Representative Kerttula's Office), Casey Schroeder-Hutch (Representative Thomas' Office), Wes Eiler (Senator Stedman's Office), Alex Viteri, (Federal Highway Administration), Lisa Shrestha (DOT) and others undeclared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Mike Korsmo asked board members to comment on the agenda. By voice vote, the agenda was approved as written with no additions or changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Doll, who is currently working on re-writing the Southwest Transportation Plan, addressed the subject of the re-write of the Plan. He said he hoped to be able to meet with the board in the fall regarding this issue and asked if there was a timeline on the revision. He indicated that there will be public meetings, beginning the first part of October and in November at various locations on this topic. The results of the public meetings should be available by spring 2012.

Mr. Doll indicated that he would appreciate a summary from the Board that he can include in his report. Chair Korsmo said that they could talk further in the fall after the results from the public meetings were analyzed and the process continued.

Board member Venables asked Mr. Doll to ensure that MTAB stay informed of the public meetings regarding the SW Alaska Transportation Plan. He also encouraged Mr. Doll to communicate with Lisa Shrestha.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Mike Korsmo reported that the board had a good meeting in Kodiak, with limited public attendance. He introduced Lisa Shrestha, new secretary to Deputy Commissioner Mike Neussl, and asked anyone interested in staying in touch with MTAB, upcoming meetings, and general information to feel free to contact her.

He reported that due to the legislature going into special session at the end of June, our two state representatives could not attend the Kodiak meeting as planned. Chair Korsmo noted that for three board members, their terms will be up in September, so the board will meet once more before that time.

There was good news regarding the signing of the budget with regard to the ferry system needs and the addition of \$60M to the vessel replacement fund. The Board is considering issuing a press release regarding recent MTAB news and announcing the upcoming meeting as well.

STAFF REPORTS

Captain Neussl met recently with Andy Hughes, DOT planner. Mr. Hughes went over the SE Transportation Plan Scoping Report with consideration of the Deputy Commissioner's feedback. The scoping report will initially be provided to the Marine Transportation Advisory Board for comment in advance of its release for public comment. The Department will collect public comments for use in crafting a draft SATP.

Neussl reported that he met with the Governor's Office on 7 July to discuss the method of procurement DOT will use for the Alaska Class Ferry. He will meet with the Chief Contracts Officer, Mark O'Brien regarding that as well. DOT will advertise the dates for participation in a pre-proposal conference, but as of now, the dates have not been determined. The model for procurement may follow the CMGC process, which the States of Utah and Washington, among others, have used in the past. Once he meets with Mark O'Brien, he will report back to the Governor's Office as well as MTAB. Deputy Commissioner Neussl confirmed the addition of \$60 million dollars to the vessel replacement fund by the legislature and approved by the governor. Member Venables asked for clarification on whether the \$60 million dollars came from the operating or capital budget. It was stated by Deputy Commissioner Neussl that the money was appropriated in HB 108, the operating budget.

Chair Korsmo appreciated Captain Neussl following through so diligently. The new vessel procurement is MTAB's highest priority right now. Captain Neussl commented on some research he has conducted, particularly with the Washington State Ferries. He realized that the Washington State ferries do not travel in the same conditions, routes,

and are of varying sizes in comparison to ours, but in looking at one ferry, it was comparable at a cost of approximately \$80.5 to \$103 million dollars. Again, there are obvious differences between Alaskan and Washington state ferries, one being crew accommodations. The differences were discussed between our ferries and ones for other states. It was brought up that not only did we have crew quarters but our cabins are more complex and there are other design modifications. Even so, with the differences taken into consideration, the costs are at least “in the ballpark,” according to Captain Neussl.

Doug Ward asked about notification for contracts and if the DOT was going to ask for specific or general building parameters. Captain Neussl replied that currently both are to be considered. As far as the bidding, DOT will invite both directly and the general public through a notice. Doug Ward asked that his company, Alaska Ship & Dry Dock be included in the invitation. He further commented that it would be his choice if the procurement strategy was to use the CMGC model, as it appears the DOT might.

Captain Neussl was not able to commit that the CMGC process would be used. Most in the room including members of MTAB agreed that it was a preferable model for procurement.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Korsmo commented that Deputy Commissioner Neussl is not available on September 8th as he is required elsewhere on that date. He suggested that Captain Falvey could attend in his stead, as that date is good for most of the board. Board members Maxine Thompson, Cathie Roemmich, Gerry Hope, Dan Kelly and Robert Venables all indicated that they could attend.

Chair Korsmo will continue to work on finalizing the date and making sure a quorum is available for that fall meeting date. He mentioned several board members’ terms are due to expire Sept. 12th, so the board must meet before that date. Board Member Venables asked if any date on either side of the 8th might be a good choice since perhaps Captain Neussl could then attend. Captain Neussl explained that he had a 1-day event but could get to Skagway immediately after his work in Valdez is completed.

Chair Korsmo suggested that if we change the meeting to Sept. 9th, the board could arrive on the 8th, the evening before, and perhaps the 9th (Friday) may work for the meeting date. Captain Neussl will check his schedule for the 9th.

Chair Korsmo reiterated that he is working on a press release to get out soon.

ADJOURNMENT

On a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Shrestha

